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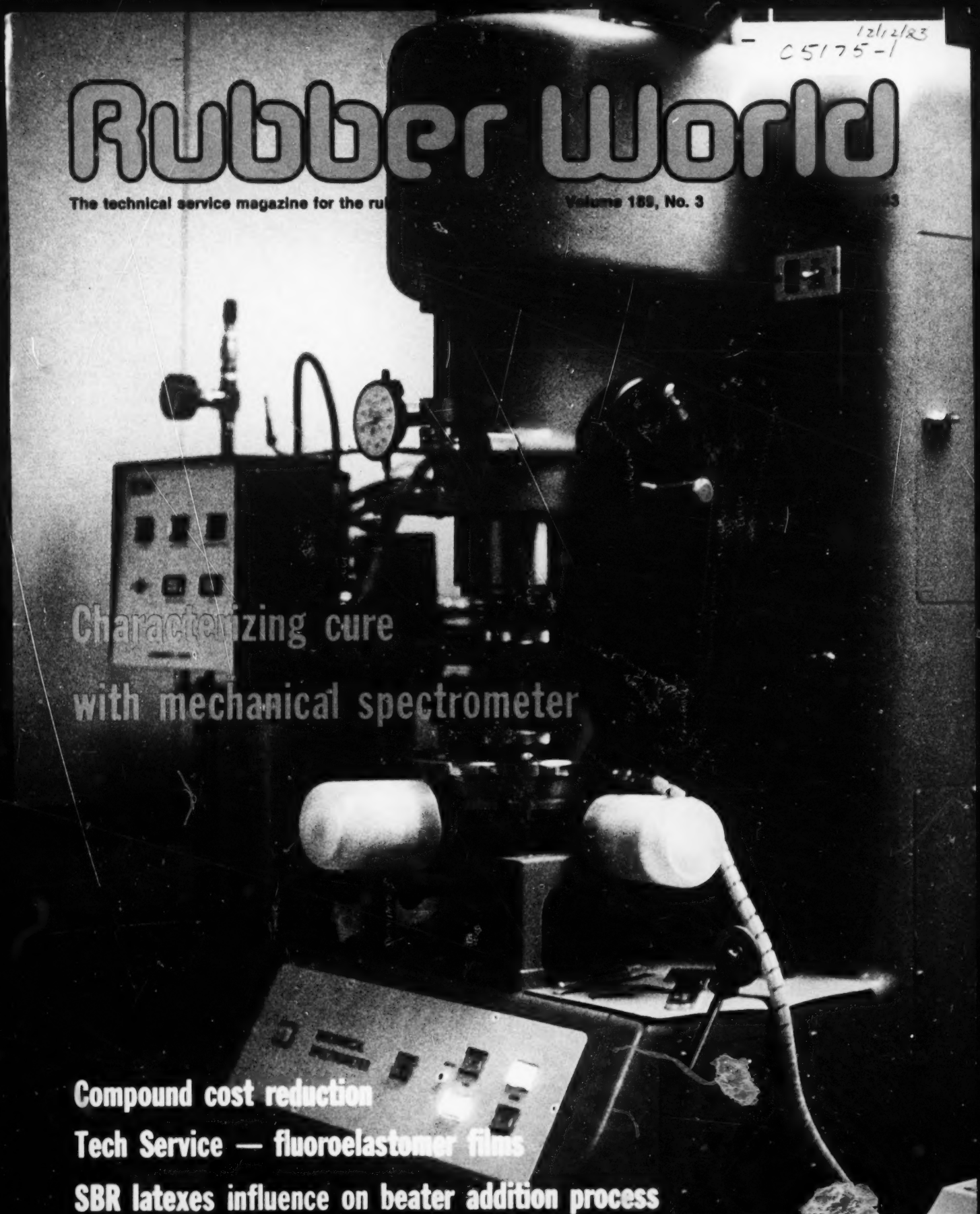

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Compound cost reduction

Tech Service — fluoroelastomer films

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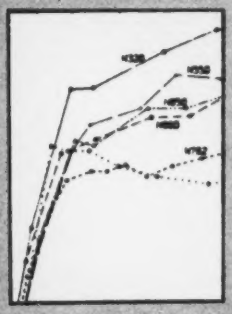

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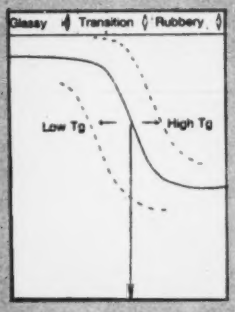

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Cover

Cover photo courtesy of Lord Corp.

Carbon black industry in the U.S. (metric tons)

		1983 1st half	Percentage Change 1st half '83 vs. 1st half '82
N-100 (SAF)	Prod.	10,521	+14.8%
	Ship.	9,632	+15.1%
N-200 (ISAF)	Prod.	57,366	+3.8%
	Ship.	58,651	+6.3%
N-300 (HAF)	Prod.	241,077	+2.5%
	Ship.	242,098	+3.2%
N-500 (FEF)	Prod.	45,016	(15.8%)
	Ship.	46,305	(16.2%)
N-600 (GPF)	Prod.	133,998	(5.5%)
	Ship.	138,436	+1.4%
N-700 (SAF)	Prod.	52,770	+10.4%
	Ship.	55,524	+8.2%
Total	Prod.	540,742	(0.4%)
	Ship.	550,646	+1.7%
Domestic Shipments (Included Above)		540,537	2.8%
Domestic Share		98.2%	

SBR black rubber production (metric tons)

	1983 1st half	Percentage Change 1st half '83 vs. 1st half '82
Net Polymer	60,269	(18.6%)
Oil	23,981	(23.7%)
Oil % of Net Polymer	39.8%	
Net Rubber	84,250	(20.2%)
Net Rubber % of Dry SBR	21.0%	
Carbon Black	40,890	(7.9%)
Total SBR Black Rubber	125,140	(16.6%)

More movement was announced in the domestic carbon black scene as **Ashland** announced an agreement to sell its U.S. carbon black division to **Bass Brothers Enterprises. Sid Richardson Carbon** manages all carbon black operations for Bass Brothers. Also, **Consolidated Minings & Industries S.A.**, recent purchaser of Columbian Chemicals signed a letter of intent to purchase **Continental Carbon** from **Conoco**. Sid Richardson will be getting three of Ashland's carbon black facilities along with a customer technical service laboratory in Akron. The plants are in Aransas Pass, TX with a 100 million pound capacity, Belpre, OH with a 120 million pound capacity and the 200 million pound active capacity New Iberia, LA plant. Ashland is selling its foreign carbon black operations to Cabot. Consolidated Mining would become the largest domestic producer when the deal is concluded adding Continental's Phenix City AL (55 million pounds), Ponco City, OK (132 mil/lbs.), and Sunray, TX (98 mil/lbs.) plants to the 640 million pound capacity purchased in the Columbian deal.

VenBLACK, Inc., a group of investors, acquired the Austin Black operations of **Slab Fork Coal** in Tams, WV.

[illegible] (Figures in thousands of units)

Passenger Tires	1983	1982	% Change
Shipments			
Original Equipment	23,428	20,687	+13.25
Radial	19,531	17,323	+12.75
Replacement	77,668	75,161	+3.34
Radial	53,397	48,013	+11.21
Export	2,100	1,691	+24.19
Radial	1,389	889	+56.24
Total	103,196	97,539	+5.80
Radial	74,317	66,225	+12.22
Production	89,601	87,913	+1.92
Radial	62,242	59,175	+5.18
Ending Inventory	30,294	32,908	−7.94
Radial	22,515	24,007	−6.21
Truck & Bus Tires			
Shipments			
Original Equipment	2,899	3,018	−3.94
Radial	1,322	1,137	+16.27
Replacement	16,104	15,771	+2.11
Radial	5,231	4,520	+15.73
Export	578	573	+0.87
Radial	284	149	+90.60
Total	19,581	19,362	+1.13
Radial	6,837	5,806	+17.76
Production	17,169	17,286	−0.68
Radial	5,251	4,325	+21.41
Ending Inventory	6,695	7,855	−14.77
Radial	2,591	2,7582	−5.85

[illegible] through July 1983 (figures are expressed in metric tons)

	Cumulative 1983	Cumulative 1982	% Change 83 vs 82
Total New Rubber			
New rubber available	1,629,860	1,594,716	2.20
Imports	500,049	449,546	11.23
Exports	182,625	198,500	−8.00
Apparent Consumption	1,407,517	1,420,419	−.91
Total Natural Rubber			
Imports	406,452	375,375	8.28
Exports	10,148	8,298	22.29
Apparent Consumption	392,316	388,071	1.09
% Total new rubber	27.87	27.32	
Total Synthetic Rubber			
Production	1,129,811	1,145,170	−1.34
Imports	93,597	74,171	26.19
Exports	172,477	190,202	−9.32
Apparent Consumption	1,015,200	1,032,348	−1.66
% Total new rubber	72.12	72.67	
Total SBR			
Production	517,719	529,669	−2.26
Imports	31,676	30,263	4.67
Exports	47,533	52,858	−10.07
Apparent Consumption	497,714	502,924	−1.04
Total Nitrile			
Production	30,181	29,457	2.46
Imports	5,017	4,645	8.01
Exports	3,619	3,754	−3.60
Apparent Consumption	31,396	31,345	.16
Polybutadiene			
Production	188,004	177,116	6.15
Imports	23,781	17,168	38.52
Exports	9,065	8,306	9.14
Apparent Consumption	193,693	186,932	3.62
Ethylene-Propylene			
Production	96,914	77,755	24.64
Imports	231	108	113.89
Exports	18,236	17,726	2.88
Apparent Consumption	75,592	66,741	13.26